

6-2-1982

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "06/02/1982 - Kathy Richards Completes Third Season With Softball" (1982). 1982. 502.
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Panther Sports News

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June 2, 1982
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Kathy Richards (Pittsfield) completed her third season with the Eastern Illinois University softball team at the AIAW Division II College World Series, May 20-23 in Sioux Falls, SD.

The Panthers placed third in the WCWS and finished the season with a 45-8 record. It is the most wins in EIU history in any sport.

"I think there are very few pitchers, at any level, who can say they won 24 games in one season," EIU coach Deanna D'Abbraccio said. "Kathy demonstrated the confidence and concentration to be a top-notch pitcher in the entire country."

Richards earned four honors this season, All-State, Region 5 All-American, AIAW Division II All-American and was selected to the AIAW Division II WCWS All-Championship team as she won all five games for the Panthers in the World Series.

She pitched 194 2/3 innings allowing just 10 earned runs. Her 0.36 earned run average and 24-3 won-lost mark are season records. Richards pitched 15 shutouts and at one point during the season won 13 straight games (six of those shutouts) and did not allow an earned run for 60 consecutive innings.

She led Eastern's pitching trio in game appearances (30), starts (26), complete games (24), winning percentage (.893), strikeouts (87) and walks (44).

A physical education major, Richards is a 1979 graduate of Pittsfield High School where she pitched for coach Rhonda Vineyard.

She is the daughter of Clarence and Ann Richards, R. R. #1 in Pittsfield.